

**BERKS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
August 4, 2022 – 11:00 A.M.**

**Kevin S. Barnhardt, Chair**  
**Michael S. Rivera, Vice-Chair**  
**Christian Y. Leinbach, Commissioner**  
**Christine M. Sadler, County Solicitor**  
**Cody L. Kauffman, First Assistant County Solicitor**

**CALL TO ORDER- 11:00 A.M.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Board approved the minutes for the July 1, 2022 Special Election Board meeting as presented.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

**1. Permanent Polling Location Authorization**

On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Rivera, the Board approved the following polling location changes effective as of the 2022 General Election:

<b>Reading 1-1</b>	<b>From:</b> Reading Recreation Commission 320 South 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street Reading, PA 19602	<b>To:</b> Kennedy Towers 300 South 4 <sup>th</sup> Street Reading, PA 19602
<b>Reading 3-1</b>	<b>From:</b> Reading Opportunity Center 800 Penn Street Reading, PA 19602	<b>To:</b> Rhodes Apartments 815 Franklin Street Reading, PA 19602
<b>Reading 4-1</b>	<b>From:</b> Tyson-Schoener Elementary 315 South 5 <sup>th</sup> Street Reading, PA 19602	<b>To:</b> Franklin Apartments 120 South 6 <sup>th</sup> Street Reading, PA 19602
<b>Reading 19-1</b>	<b>From:</b> Christ Lutheran Church 301 Luzerne Street Reading, PA 19601	<b>To:</b> Glenside Elementary 500 Lackawanna Street Reading, PA 19601
<b>Cumru 6</b>	<b>From:</b> Governor Mifflin Transportation Bldg. 600 Governor Drive Reading, PA 19607	<b>To:</b> Mifflin Court Assisted Living 450 East Philadelphia Avenue Reading, PA 19607
<b>Exeter 3</b>	<b>From:</b> Exeter Community Library 4569 Prestwick Drive Reading, PA 19606	<b>To:</b> Exeter Village Recreation Center 200 Eastwick Drive Reading, PA 19606
<b>Exeter 10</b>	<b>From:</b> Exeter Community Library 4569 Prestwick Drive Reading, PA 19606	<b>To:</b> Berkshire Commons 5485 Perkiomen Avenue Reading, PA 19607

**2. Act 88 Grant Funding**

On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Rivera, the Board approved applying for Act 88 Grant Funding, which will be utilized for the November 8, 2022, election as well as the Primary of 2023. The \$1.36 million dollar grant can be utilized for election related expenses such as: additional staffing costs, security for centralized pre-canvassing and canvassing, ballot printing, worker training costs, secure preparation, transportation, storage, and management of voting apparatuses, tabulation equipment, and required polling place materials.

**3. BCTV Contract**

On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Rivera, the Board approved seeking a short-term contract with BCTV for the recording of pre-canvassing and canvassing of ballots for the November 2022 general election, with a caveat that addresses unanticipated situations.

**4. Review and Approval of Referendum Questions to be Placed on the 2022 General Election Ballot**

On the motion of Commissioner Rivera, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board approved the placement of three questions on the 2022 General Election ballot. Two questions will appear on all City of Reading ballots, one question will appear on all Lower Heidelberg Township ballots.

**5. Election Report**

Chair Kevin Barnhardt outlined the key parts of the 2022 Primary election investigation. The final report recommended implementing the following:

1. Election staff undergo additional ES&S training.
2. Expanded poll worker training on the use of Electronic poll books.
3. Logic & Accuracy (L&A) testing to have county employees, election consultants, and ES&S techs present who have an essential and functional knowledge of PA Election Code.
4. Establish a direct line of communication with all 202 precincts which facilitates group and individual communications are addressed timely and efficiently.
5. Ensure that each Judge of Election activates and verifies that the county-provided cell phone is functional on election day.

Commissioner Leinbach added that the Commissioners take full responsibility. Commissioner Rivera stated that it was something to learn from, but the Board is moving forward to prevent this from happening.

**GENERAL COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS REGARDING CURRENT ELECTION-RELATED ISSUES**

Commissioner Barnhardt requested an item be placed on the next agenda to nominate Silvia Gutierrez as Secretary of the Board.

**CITIZEN COMMENT**

Tom Herman of Robeson Township commented on the lawsuit against Berks County. He opined that holding up the Primary election certification affects those elected, including local committee members. Additionally, he believes the Board's actions are risking election integrity, as well as being a waste of taxpayer money.

Jamie Kyle of Douglass Township spoke regarding a letter and questionnaire from the Berks County Republican Committee (BCRC). Jamie stated she won the office of Republican Committee person by write-in votes in the 2022 Primary, however, is being told by BCRC that they reserve the right to “not seat” an elected committee member.

Daniell Urban of Douglass Township also spoke of a similar experience as Jamie Kyle. Daniell was on the 2022 Primary ballot for Republican Committeewoman and also received a letter and questionnaire from BCRC. Daniell felt that the BCRC is blatantly ignoring the will of the voters.

Michael Urban of Douglass Township spoke of the same experience with BCRC. Michael was elected as Republican Committee man in the 2022 Primary. Additionally, he stated he received a second letter from BCRC on July 7<sup>th</sup>.

First Assistant Solicitor Cody Kauffman explained that the role of the Board is to certify results and issue certificates. However, the Board cannot interject or engage in party issues.

John Palmer of Upper Bern Township: Comment regarding the state of the Elections department since the 2020 Presidential election, specifically the turnover of Elections directors.

John Archer of Spring Township asked: Who checks downloaded data? What role does the Department of State play in data download?

First Assistant Solicitor Cody Kauffman answered: The date comes from the SURE system.

**ADJOURNMENT** – 11:59 A.M.